

## Help is available!

The Illinois Department on Aging, in partnership with 13 Area Agencies on Aging, can provide information and assistance to help you locate these and other services:

- ♥ Caregiver Resource Centers
- ♥ Support groups
- ♥ Financial assistance
- ♥ Medical coverage for grandchildren
- ♥ Child care (under certain circumstances)
- ♥ Guardianship
- ♥ Legal services
- ♥ Information and assistance
- ♥ Advocacy with school enrollment and other areas



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois

...helping grandparents and other relatives care for children

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### Illinois Department on Aging

Senior HelpLine:  
1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY)  
[www.state.il.us/aging](http://www.state.il.us/aging)

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY).

Printed by Authority State of Illinois  
IL-402-0976 (Rev. 3/03)



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois

Help is available for grandparents and other relatives who are caring for children.

### Illinois Department on Aging

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich  
Director Charles D. Johnson

## Who is giving care?

- ✓ In Illinois, over 200,000 children are being raised in grandparent-headed homes.
- ✓ They are from all walks of life and all cultural and economic groups.
- ✓ Grandparent caregivers range in age from 30 to 90.
- ✓ Most have cared for the children 5 years or longer and are raising 1-2 children.
- ✓ The grandparents' average income is between \$15,000 and \$25,000.
- ✓ The majority of grandparents are single women.



## You are **not** alone...

Many grandparents are overwhelmed with the situations they face.



*Grace's dreams of retirement were shattered when she took her three young grandchildren into her home. Now, at age 60, she is raising a second family – with the limited financial resources of a retired person.*

*Dorothy and Jim are faced with raising an active five-year-old. Dorothy is worried because her grandson is showing signs of having problems in school, and she and Jim are experiencing health problems.*

## Why is it happening?

Reasons children come to live with relatives are often heartbreaking and tragic. They include:

- ✓ Drug or alcohol abuse by the parent(s)
- ✓ Neglect, abuse or abandonment
- ✓ Death of a parent
- ✓ HIV / AIDS
- ✓ Divorce
- ✓ Unemployment / poverty
- ✓ Parental incarceration
- ✓ Teen pregnancy
- ✓ Welfare reform

It's important to **Ask** for help